

May 12, 2011

To whom it may concern:

I would like to state my support for the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile wireless carriers. As an economic developer in a rural county, I have seen firsthand the importance that broadband coverage plays in the process of recruiting industry and creating economic development opportunities. Many rural counties have no option for broadband Internet connectivity. Wireless technologies are the only option for many rural communities.

The recent tornado outbreak in Alabama has proved this point even further. Since the outbreak on April 27th, many residents of Marshall County have been without electricity, telephone, cable and Internet. However, many people have realized the value of smart-phones and wirelessly connected devices as a result. During the days immediately following the tornados, a majority of residents relied on wireless technologies as their sole source of news, information and contact with loved ones.

The proposed merger would go a long way to pushing that capacity even further. AT&T's deployment of its 4G LTE network is essential in bringing much needed broadband infrastructure to rural areas. The merger will insure that this happens sooner and more effectively. It will strengthen and broaden the U.S. broadband infrastructure and help increase capacity of a spectrum that is rapidly becoming filled by the explosion of smart-phones and other connected devices.

Please consider rural America when evaluating this merger and its impact. Rural businesses and entrepreneurs need quality infrastructure and a level playing field to remain competitive and create employment opportunities.

Sincerely,



Matthew M. Arnold
President & CEO